By the Queene.

Anno 13 Eliz 145

WHere in the Parliament holden at Westminster, the seconde day of Aprill, in the xiii. yeere of ỹ reigne of our soueraigne Lady the Queene, there was for the relief of diuers poore decaied townes, & of great multitudes of her poore subiects, who otherwise were likely to perish, or to become vnprofitable and dangerous to the common weale, among other prouided & established, one good & beneficiall statute, entituled, An acte for the continuance of making of cappes. By meane of which statute, great nombers of idle, poore, and impotent persons were for a season set on worke, while the awe of the sayd statute, and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marueylous great commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of yll occupied persons, as by the experience thereof hath bene manifestly proued. And whereas neuertheless by litle and litle, the disobedience and wanton disorder of euill disposed and light persons, more regarding priuate fansie and vanitie, then publique commoditie or respect of duetie, hath encreased by want of execution of the said law, whereby those good and honest subiects that haue by meanes of the sayd statute, set to worke a great number of poore people, are like to be driuen to giue ouer their sayde trade of making of cappes, and to send abrode againe into idlenesse and miserie, those multitudes that haue bene by them releeued, whereby is likely to growe great enormitie and inconuenience, if speedie remedie therefore be not in time prouided. The Queenes most excellent maiestie therefore tenderly considering the premisses, strayghtly chargeth and commandeth al Justices of Assises, Justices of peace, Maiors, Shirifes, Bayliffes, and other head officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Townes corporate, and the Lords, Stewards, Bayliffes, and other officers of Leets, Lawdayes, and liberties, and all & singuler Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other her highnesse subiectes, to whom the executing or putting in vre of the same statute any way may appertaine, that euery one of them, according to his office, place, and calling, doe their vttermost endeuour for the due execution of the sayde statute: and that they the said Bayliffes, Constables, Thyrdboroughs, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other inferior officers, and euery of them, do euery Sunday, and festiual day, make diligent viewe and search in al Churches, Chappels, and all other places within the circuites and compasses of their offices & authorities, for all and singuler breakers and offendors of the sayd statute, and without delay cause the names of al such offendours, and of the parents, gardians, gouernours, and masters of euery chylde, seruant, & warde, so offending, together with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then written, and to be lawfully and orderly presented, at such Assyses, Sessions, or Courtes (next after such offences) as haue authoritie to enquire or determine the saide offences: And that all Maiors, Shiriffes, & Bayliffes of Cities, Boroughes, & Townes corporate, and all lords of Leets, Lawdayes, and Liberties, doe immediatly vpon the proclamation hereof, call before them all the sayde Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferiour Bailiffes, and all other the abouesayde inferiour officers, that shalbe vnder their charge of gouernement, and them & euery of them foorthwith in our names doe straightly charge & command, that they, & euery of them, to the vttermost of their powers, do euery Sunday and festiuall day, make such diligent viewe & search, and such note also of ỹ names of all such offendours, & such presentment of al such offences as is abouesaid: And that all Justices of Assises, and Justices of peace in their circuites and Sessions, & all Stewards in their Leetes, vpon paine of her Maiesties high displeasure, omit not in any wise from time to time, specially to giue in charge, & cause to be enquired of all offences against the saide statute committed, or to be committed within their seuerall precinctes or iurisdictions, and also doe duely heare and determine the same, punishing euery of the said offendours according to the said statute: And that all the sayde Lords and owners of Leets and Lawdayes, doe as much as in euery of them shall lye, to cause their Stewards throughly to execute their office and authority, according to the same statute, and that vpon euery such offence found, both the said owners of Leets, and also the rulers & chiefe gouernours of euery City, Borough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any such offence shalbe tryed and found, shall do their vttermost indeuour by the lawe to recouer, haue, and obteine of euery such offendour, all the penalties to them, or any of them, by the saide statute forfeyted, or to be forfeited.

Lr Bre Sat 29 Aprilis 14 Eliz

God saue the Queene.

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